

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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O R 142319Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9815

USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS OTTAWA 1957

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: N/A

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO PRESS RELEASE

EUR/CAN FOR ROUSE

REF: OTTAWA 1933

1. AMBASSADOR ENDERS TOGETHER WITH STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS FROM WASHINGTON, CANADIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES, JAKE WARREN, AND

SENIOR EXTAFF OFFICIALS, PARTICIPATED IN A DISCUSSION OF U.S.-CANADIAN RELATIONS ORGANIZED BY THE CANADIAN INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS MAY 12-13 IN WINNIPEG. IN THE OPENING SESSION, THE AMBASSADOR DELIVERED INFORMAL REMARKS CONCERNING VARIOUS ASPECTS OF U.S.-CANADIAN RELATIONS.

2. THE AMBASSADOR'S REMARKS WERE CARRIED BY CANADIAN PRESS AND ACCURATELY REPORTED IN VARIOUS PAPERS AS WELL AS ON RADIO AND TELEVISION PROGRAMS ACROSS THE COUNTRY. CTV AND CBC NATIONAL NETWORKS GAVE THE PROCEEDINGS UNUSUALLY GOOD COVERAGE.

3. THE TORONTO GLOBE & MAIL IN A FRONT PAGE STORY ON MAY 13 MISQUOTED THE AMBASSADOR AS SAYING THAT DEFENSE WAS A MAJOR
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IRRITANT BETWEEN THE U.S. AND CANADA; "ONE OF THE MAJOR IRRITANTS

IN CANADIAN-U.S. RELATIONS HAS DEVELOPED BECAUSE MANY AMERICANS BELIEVE THAT CANADA GIVES TOO LOW A PRIORITY TO DEFENSE SPENDING."

4. THE EMBASSY ISSUED A STRONG, IMMEDIATE REBUTTAL AND ASKED THE GLOBE & MAIL FOR A RETRACTION.

5. BASED ON THE EMBASSY'S IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE AND THE EMBASSY'S TRANSCRIPT OF THE AMBASSADOR'S REMARKS, THE GLOBE & MAIL ON MAY 14 IN A SIMILAR FRONT PAGE STORY HEADLINED "U.S. ENVOY'S TALK CITED CO-OPERATION IN ARE OF DEFENCE" SAID:

DEFENCE WAS CITED AS A PROMISING AREA OF CO-OPERATION BETWEEN CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES BY U.S. AMBASSADOR THOMAS ENDERS IN A SPEECH TO A CANADIAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS SEMINAR IN WINNIPEG ON WEDNESDAY.

"IN A STORY IN YESTERDAY'S GLOBE AND MAIL, THE AMBASSADOR WAS INCORRECTLY QUOTED AS SAYING THAT ONE OF THE MAJOR IRRITANTS IN CANADIAN-U.S. RELATIONS HAS DEVELOPED BECAUSE MANY AMERICANS BELIEVE THAT CANADA GIVES TOO LOW A PRIORITY TO DEFENCE SPENDING.

"ACCORDING TO A STATEMENT ISSUED YESTERDAY BY THE UNITED STATES INFORMATION SERVICE IN OTTAWA, THE AMBASSADOR CITED DEFENCE AS ONE OF THE AREAS WHERE ATTITUDES LAG BEHIND CURRENT REALITIES IN CANADA-U.S. RELATIONS, AND SAID:

"A LOT OF CANADIANS STILL THINK THAT CANADA CAN GIVE A LOW PRIORITY TO DEFENCE SPENDING BECAUSE ONE CAN ARGUE THAT IT WILL ALWAYS BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE U.S. TO DEFEND NORTH AMERICA. BUT IN THE FACE OF AN AGGRESSIVE SOVIET DRIVE FOR MILITARY POWER, WE ARE HAVING DIFFICULTY PROVIDING THE RESOURCES TO SUSTAIN A CREDIBLE NON-NUCLEAR DEFENCE IN EUROPE AND THE NORTH ATLANTIC. CANADIAN CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMON DEFENCE, ALWAYS IMPORANT, CAN NOW BE CRITICAL AT THE MARGIN.'

"IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS YESTERDAY, ANDREW BREWIN (NDP, GREENWOOD) ASKED EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER ALLAN MACEACHEN IF HE HAD READ THE REMARKS ATTRIBUTED TO THE U.S. AMBASSADOR.

"YES, MR. SPEAKER, I NOTICED THAT REPORT IN THE GLOBE AND MAIL THIS MORNING,' MR. MACEACHEN REPLIED.

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ZMY HONORABLE FRIEND MAY BE INTERESTED IN KNOWING THAT THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR BELIEVES HE HAS BEEN GROSSLY MISQUOTED. INSTEAD OF SAYING DEFENCE WAS A MAJOR IRRITANT, HE HAD SAID IT WAS A PRIMINSING AVENUE OF CO-OPERATION.'

MR. BREWIN REPLIED THAT THE AMBASSADOR HAS EVERY RIGHT TO EXPRESS HIS OWN VIEWS, BUT ASKED MR. MACEACHEN TO CONVEY TO HIM

'THE VIEW HELD BY MANY CANADIANS THAT THE TROUBLE IS NOT UNDERSPENDING

IN CANADA ON DEFENCE BUT GROSS OVERSPENDING BY THE UNITED STATES ON
DEFENCE SUCH AS, FOR EXAMPLE, THE TRIDENT SUBARINE BASE WHICH IS
GOING TO PROVIDE THE MEANS TO DESTROY THE WHOLE WORLD MANY TIMES
OVER AT VAST EXPENSE.'

"THIS BROUGHT INTERJECTIONS FROM A NUMBER OF OTHER MPS, AND
MR. BREWIN CONTINUED:

"SOME OF MY FRIENDS DO NOT LIKE THIS FACT OF LIFE, BUT THAT IS
NOT GOING TO STOP ME POUNDING AT IT. WILL THE MINISTER SUGGEST TO
THE AMBASSADOR THAT THIS IS PART OF WHAT FORMER UNITED STATES
SECRETARY OF DEFENCE ROBERT MCNAMARA CALLED THE NUCLEAR ARMS
RACE?"

"MR. MACEACHEN SAID HE WOULD TRY TO CLARIFY THE QUESTION IN
HIS MIND SO HE COULD ANSWER IT AT A LATER DATE."
ENDERS

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